

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An image processing apparatus for forming a composite image of at least two images, said image processing apparatus comprising:
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storage means for storing first image data and second image data;
- display means for reading the first and second image data stored in said storage means, and displaying the read first and second image data in modes adapted for display forms of the first and second image data; and
- image-signal forming means for forming image signals representing a composite image based on the first and second image data read from said storage means. *by the display*
2. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the stored first or second image data are respectively read at arbitrary positions in an arbitrary order.
3. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said display means changes an order of reading the first or second image data stored in said storage means in accordance with whether a display screen for displaying the first and second image data is vertically or horizontally

0926260-034400

4. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said display means reads one of the first and second image data in order different from an order of reading the other one of the first and second image data in accordance with whether a display screen for displaying the first and second image data is vertically or horizontally positioned.

5. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising image capture means for capturing the image of a subject, and supplying image signals corresponding to the captured image to said storage means, wherein while image capture is being performed at a vertical image-capture position, when a first image represented by video signals output from said image capture means, and a second image different from the first image are displayed, the second image data are read in an order different from the order of reading said first image data stored in said storage means, and wherein while image capture is being performed at a horizontal image-capture position, when the first image represented by video signals output from said image capture means, and the second image different from the first image are displayed, the second image data are read in an order identical to the order of reading the first image

data stored in said storage means.

6. An image processing method of forming a composite image of at least two images, said image processing method comprising:

a storage step of storing first image data and second image data;

a display step of reading the first and second image data stored in said storage step, and displaying the read first and second image data in modes adapted for display forms of the first and second image data; and

an image-signal forming step of forming image signals representing a composite image based on the first and second image data read from said storage means.

7. An image processing method according to Claim 6, wherein said storage step reads the stored first or second image data at arbitrary positions in an arbitrary order.

8. An image processing method according to Claim 7, wherein said display step changes the order of reading the first and second image data stored in said storage means in accordance with whether a display screen for displaying the first and second image data is vertically or horizontally positioned.

9. An image processing method according to Claim 7, wherein said display step reads one of the first and second image data in an order different from an order of reading the other one of the first and second image data in accordance with whether a display screen for displaying the first and second image data is vertically or horizontally positioned.

10. An image processing method according to Claim 7, further comprising an image capture step of capturing an image of a subject, and supplying image signals corresponding to the captured image to said storage step, wherein while image capture is being performed at a vertical image-capture position, when a first image represented by video signals output from said image capture step, and a second image different from the first image are displayed, the second image data are read in an order different from the order of reading said first image data stored in said storage step, and wherein while image capture is being performed at a horizontal image-capture position, when the first image represented by video signals output from said image capture step, and the second image different from the first image are displayed, the second image data are read in an order identical to the order of reading the first image

11. An image processing apparatus for forming a composite image of at least two images, said image processing apparatus comprising:

3/ storage means for storing first image data generated by said image capture means, and second image data different from said first image data;

image-signal forming means for reading the stored first and second image data, and forming video signals representing a composite image of a first image represented by the first image data and a second image represented by the second image data so that the first and second images are displayed on a same display screen; and

output means/for externally outputting the video signals formed by said image-signal forming means.

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image processing apparatus according to claim 1, while image capture is being performed at a first image capture position, when the first and second image data are displayed, said display means reads the first image data in an order different from an order of writing the first image data stored in said storage means, and when image capture is being performed at a second image capture position, when the first and second image data are displayed, said display means reads the second image data in an order different from the order of reading the first image data stored in said storage means.

image processing apparatus according to claim 1, while image capture is being performed at a first image capture position, when the first image data is displayed, said display means reads the first image data in an order different from the order of writing the first image data stored in said storage means, and when image capture is being performed at a second image capture position, when the first image data is displayed, said display means reads the first image data in an order different from the order of reading the first image data stored in said storage means.

image processing apparatus according to claim 1, while image capture is being performed at a first image capture position, when the first image data is displayed, said display means reads the first image data in an order different from the order of writing the first image data stored in said storage means, and when image capture is being performed at a second image capture position, when the first image data is displayed, said display means reads one of the first image data and the second image data in an order different from the order of reading the first image data stored in said storage means.

13. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein irrespective of the position of image capture, said display means reads the first image data in an order identical to the order of writing the first image data.

14. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein while image capture is being performed at a first image-capture position, said display means reads one of the first and second image data stored in said storage means in an order different from the order of reading the other one of the first and second image data, and wherein while image capture is being performed at a second image-capture position, said display means reads one of the first

15. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein when the display screen is in the first condition thereof, said display means reads the second image data stored in said storage means in an order different from the order of reading the first image data, and wherein when the display screen is in the second condition thereof, said display means reads the second image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of reading the first image data.

17. An image/processing apparatus according to Claim

18. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein while image capture is being performed at a first image-capture position, said display means reads the second image data stored in said storage means in an order different from the order of reading the first image data, and said image-signal forming means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of reading said second image data, and

wherein while image capture is being performed at a second image-capture position, said display means reads the second image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of reading the first image data, and even said image-signal forming means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to



the order of reading the second image data.

19. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein while image capture is being performed at a first image-capture position, said display means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in order different from an order of writing the first image data, and said image-signal forming means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of writing the first image data, and

wherein while image capture is being performed at a second image-capture position, said display means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of writing the first image data, and said image-signal forming means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of writing the first image data.

20. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein while image capture is being performed at a first image-capture position, said display means reads one of the first and second image data stored in said storage means in an order different from an order of reading the other one of the first and second image data, and said image-signal forming means reads one of the first and second

wherein while image capture is being performed at a second image-capture position, said display means reads one of the first and second image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to an order of reading the other one of the first and second image data, and said image-signal forming means reads one of the first and second image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to an order of reading the other one of the first and second image data.

wherein when the display screen is in the second condition thereof, said display means reads the second image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of reading said first image data, and said image-

signal forming means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of reading said second image data.

22. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein when the display screen is in the first condition thereof, said display means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order different from an order of writing the first image data, and said image-signal forming means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of writing the first image data, and

wherein when the display screen is in the second condition thereof, said display means reads the first image data stored in the storage means in an order identical to the order of writing the first image data, and said image-signal forming means reads the first image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to the order of writing the first image data.

23. An image processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein when the display screen is in the first condition thereof, said display means reads one of the first and second image data stored in said storage means in an order different from an order of reading the other one of

wherein when the display screen is in the second condition thereof, said display means reads one of the first and second image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to an order of reading the other one of the first and second image data, and said image-signal forming means reads one of the first and second image data stored in said storage means in an order identical to an order of reading the other one of the first and second image data.